

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 488

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Commending the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and its employees for its dedication and hard work during Hurricanes Charley, Frances, and Ivan.

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CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Whereas the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service consistently provides critical forecasts and warnings about severe weather to the Nation's citizens;

Whereas 2 hurricanes, Charley and Frances, recently hit the State of Florida back-to-back, an event which has not occurred since 1964;

Whereas Hurricane Ivan was the third hurricane in a month to hit the United States mainland;

Whereas the employees of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Tropical Prediction Center/National Hurricane Center and the employees of key Southern Region Weather Forecast Offices worked tirelessly and under great pressure to provide the most up to date information to the public, the media, and emergency management officials during Hurricanes Charley, Frances, and Ivan;

Whereas the employees of the National Hurricane Center conducted 656 live television interviews as well as 1227 telephone briefings to the media and others during Hurricanes Frances and Ivan;

Whereas the forecasts and information from the National Hurricane Center provided notice for the safe evacuation of more than 6,000,000 residents in the line of Hurricanes Charley, Frances, and Ivan and warnings to the residents of Florida, Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana;

Whereas the Hurricane Liaison Team, a joint National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Federal Emergency Management Agency partnership, provided support to the 25 different media outlets operating out of the National Hurricane Center;

Whereas the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Hydrometeorological Prediction Center provided rainfall forecasts and hurricane track guidance to the National Hurricane Center;

Whereas the National Weather Service's National Data Buoy Center, in partnership with the United States Coast

Guard, worked expediently after Hurricane Charley to fix data buoys that proved critical for forecasts of Hurricane Frances and Ivan;

Whereas the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Ocean Service provided storm surge predictions and hydrographic information support to Federal partners before, during, and after Hurricanes Charley, Frances, and Ivan;

Whereas the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Environmental Satellite Data and Information Service provided images of Hurricane Frances every 5 minutes over a 4-day period, an unprecedented number of images for hurricane tracking;

Whereas the Southern and Eastern Region Weather Forecast Offices of San Juan, Miami, Tampa Bay, Key West, Melbourne, Jacksonville, Tallahassee, Atlanta, Birmingham, Huntsville, Mobile, Morristown, Charleston, Morehead City, Wilmington, Wakefield, Taunton, Lake Charles, New Orleans, Jackson, Nashville, and Houston provided up-to-the-minute local details for residents throughout Hurricanes Charley, Frances, and Ivan;

Whereas employees from other offices within the Southern Region provided additional support to key Weather Forecast Offices directly impacted by Hurricanes Charley, Frances, and Ivan;

Whereas more than 1,700 watches, warnings, advisories, and other statements were issued by key local Weather Forecast Offices during Hurricanes Charley, Frances, and Ivan;

Whereas the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Marine and Aviation Operation's Hurricane Hunt-

ers logged 344 hours of flight time through and above the storms to assist the National Hurricane Center in tracking Hurricanes Charley, Frances, and Ivan;

Whereas the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron of the 403rd Wing of the Air Force Reserve Command at Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, Mississippi, logged 537 hours of flight time through and above the storms to assist the National Hurricane Center in tracking Hurricanes Charley, Frances, and Ivan;

Whereas the Southeast River Forecast Center provided critical river flooding forecast information to Federal, State, and private partners during Hurricanes Charley, Frances, and Ivan and accurately predicted the amount of excessive rainfall over the Southeastern United States several days in advance; and

Whereas it is still the first half of hurricane season and all these employees remain engaged tracking tropical storms: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring), That the Congress—*

3 (1) commends the employees of the National
4 Weather Service, especially the National Oceanic
5 and Atmospheric Administration Tropical Prediction
6 Center/National Hurricane Center,
7 Hydrometeorological Prediction Center, and Na-
8 tional Data Buoy Center; the 53rd Weather Recon-
9 naissance Squadron of the 403rd Wing of the Air
10 Force Reserve Command at Keesler Air Force Base,
11 Biloxi, Mississippi; the National Oceanic and Atmos-

1 pheric Administration Aircraft Operations Center at
2 MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, Florida; the Hurri-
3 cane Liaison Team; the National Ocean Service; and
4 the National Environmental Satellite Data and In-
5 formation Service, for their extraordinary dedication
6 and hard work during Hurricanes Charley, Frances,
7 and Ivan;

8 (2) commends the Southern and Eastern Re-
9 gion Weather Forecast Offices of San Juan, Miami,
10 Tampa Bay, Key West, Melbourne, Jacksonville,
11 Tallahassee, Atlanta, Birmingham, Huntsville, Mo-
12 bile, Morristown, Charleston, Morehead City, Wil-
13 mington, Wakefield, Taunton, Lake Charles, New
14 Orleans, Jackson, Nashville, and Houston for their
15 extraordinary dedication and hard work during Hur-
16 ricanes Charley, Frances, and Ivan;

17 (3) thanks the commercial and media mete-
18 orologists for their contributions in disseminating
19 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-
20 tion forecasts and warnings to the public; and

1 (4) expresses its support for the ongoing hard
2 work and dedication of all who provide accurate and
3 timely hurricane forecasts.

 Passed the House of Representatives September 22,
2004.

Attest:

Clerk.